Description of type (coll. Am. Mus. No. 59,051, female, Princestown, Trinidad, March 28, 1893, F. M. Chapman).—Crown and nape cinereous washed with olive green, back bright olive green, wings and tail fuscous, the exposed margins of the feathers olive green; auriculars cinereous, throat and upper part of the breast pale grayish white, rest of the under parts bright yellow; bill horn-black, feet brownish black; wing, 2.40; tail, 2.25; exposed culmen, .50; height of bill at anterior margin of the nostril, .22 in.

Basileuterus vermivorus olivascens subsp. nov.

Char. Subsp.—Similar to *B. vermivorus* (Vieill.) but the bill averages larger and the upper parts are constantly grayer. (Type, coll. Am. Mus. No. 58,974, adult male, Princestown, Trinidad, March 1, 1893, F. M. Chapman.)

Myrmeciza longipes albiventris subsp. nov.

Char. subsp.—Similar to *M. longipes* (Swains.), but somewhat smaller and with the flanks and abdomen pure white, slightly or not at all washed with cinereous. (Type, coll. Am. Mus. No. 59,329, adult male, Princestown, Trinidad, March 10, 1893, F. M. Chapman.)

RECENT LITERATURE.

Shufeldt on Fossil Birds from Oregon.—In a quarto memoir[1] of thirty-five pages, with three plates, Dr. Shufeldt gives the final results of his studies of several hundred fossil bones of birds, collected at Fossil and Silver Lakes, Oregon, by Professors Thomas Condon and E. D. Cope, of which a preliminary account was given in the 'American Naturalist' for April, 1891 (pp. 359-362). "The Silver Lake Region of Oregon is considered to be of the latest Tertiary formation of the horizon known as the Equus Beds." About 50 species were recognized, of which 27 are positively identified with species still existing in the region, 5 as probably identical with living species, and 17 as extinct, as follows:—

[1] A Study of the Fossil Avifauna of the Equus Beds of the Oregon Desert. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D. Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., Vol. XI, pp. 389 425, pll. xv-xvii, 1892.

Existing Species.

Æchmophorus occidentalis
Colymbus holbœlli
Colymbus auritus
Podilymbus podiceps
Larus argentatus smithsonianus
Larus californicus?
Larus philadelphia
Xema sabinii
Sterna elegans?
Sterna forsteri?
Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis
Pelecanus erythrorhynchos
Lophodytes cucullatus
Anas boschas
Anas americana
Anas carolinensis
Anas discors
Anas cyanoptera?
Spatula clypeata
Dafila acuta
Aix sponsa
Aythya marila nearctica?
Glaucionetta islandica
Clangula hyemalis
Branta canadensis
Anser albifrons gambeli
Chen hyperborea
Fulica americana
Phalaropus lobatus
Tympanuchus pallidicinctus
Pediocætes phasianellus columbianus.
Bubo virginianus.

Extinct Species.

Larus robustus, sp. nov.
Larus oregonus, sp. nov.
Phalacrocorax macropus (*Cope*)
Anser condoni, sp. nov.
Branta hypsibatus *Cope*
Branta propinqua, sp. nov.
Olor paloregonus (*Cope*)
Phœnicopterus copei, sp. nov.
Ardea paloccidentalis, sp. nov.
Fulica minor, sp. nov.
Pediocætes lucasi, sp. nov.
Pediocætes nanus, sp. nov.
Palæotetrix gilli, gen. et sp. nov.
Aquila pliogryps, sp. nov.
Aquila sodalis, sp. nov.
Scolocophagus affinis, sp. nov.
Corvus annectens, sp. nov.

It thus appears that the bird life of this region in Pliocene time was not so very different from that of the same area today. As Dr. Shufeldt observes: "Great flocks of Swans, Geese and Ducks were there, feeding on the marshy shores of the lake or disporting themselves upon its waters. With but few exceptions they were of modern genera and species. A ponderous Goose appeared among them, perhaps but sparingly during Pliocene time, for it must have been nearly extinct. And a Swan, too, whose race has since died out was also there, but it was of a size quite in keeping with present day Swans. . . . To these groups we must add many individuals of a species of a great, strange Cormorant (*P. macropus*), larger than any of our existing Comorants. . . . But the strangest figure upon the scene among the birds was a true Flamingo. It could not have been very abundant, for it has left but scanty remains. Still it was there, and its presence has its meaning,—it may even suggest ideas

as to what the climate may have been in those times. . . . To speak again of the climate, it might well be compared with the present climate of Florida and the lower part of Louisiana, with the vegetation fully as luxuriant as it is now in those parts and with the palms more abundantly represented."

Dr. Shufeldt's memoir is thus a very interesting and important contribution to the early history of bird life in North America. Although he has fortunately had a comparatively large amount of material for examination, the field is obviously not exhausted, so that much may be hoped from further exploration of even this same region.—J. A. A.

Shufeldt on Ichthyornis, and on the Classification of the Longipennes. —In a paper entitled 'Comparative Osteological Notes on the Extinct Bird *Ichthyornis*'[1] Dr. Shufeldt reaches the conclusion that this type, while resembling in many points the Gulls and Terns, shared more characters in common with the Skimmers. Much of the paper is, in fact, given up to a discussion of the relationship of the Skimmers (Rhynchopidæ) to the Laridæ, reaching the conclusion that while the Gulls and Terns gradually approach each other, through such forms as *Xema*, *Creagrus*, and *Gelochelidon*, as long since stated by Coues, the Skimmers are sharply separated from either, and are well entitled to the rank of a distinct family, as placed in the A. O. U. Check-List. In a later paper[2] he returns to the subject, and after reviewing various previous classifications of the group, proposes that already adopted in the A. O. U. Check-List as best agreeing with his extended osteological studies of the North American forms.—J. A. A.

The Affinities of Hummingbirds and Swifts.—The pros and cons of the relationship of Hummingbirds and Swifts have recently been presented in various more or less controversial papers on the subject by Dr. Shufeldt[3] and Messrs. Ridgway[4] and Lucas.[5] As is well known, Dr.

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[1] Journ. Anat. and Phys., XXVII, pp. 336–342.

[2] On the Classification of the Longipennes. By R. W. Shufeldt. Am. Nat., March, 1893, pp. 233–237.

[3] Ridgway on the Anatomy of Hummingbirds and Swifts. By R. W. Shufeldt. Am. Nat., April, 1892, pp. 869, 870.

Ridgway on the Anatomy of the Hummingbirds and Swifts.—A Rejoinder. By R. W. Shufeldt. Am. Nat., April, 1893, pp. 367–371.

Comparative Notes on the Swifts and Hummingbirds. By R. W. Shufeldt. Ibis, Jan., 1893, pp. 84–100.

[4] Shufeldt on the Anatomy of the Hummingbirds and Swifts. By Robert Ridgway. Am. Nat., Dec., 1892, pp. 1040, 1041.

[5] Swifts and Hummingbirds. By Frederic A. Lucas. Ibis, July, 1893, pp. 364–371 (with nine cuts in the text).